CLAIMS:

1.   A method of controlling function units of a motorcar, or of devices (1a, 1b) installed in a motorcar, by means of speech signals, in which

acoustic signals occurring in the motorcar, which contain noise signal portions that depend on the operating state and/or operation environment of the motorcar and speech signal portions, as the case may be, are applied to a speech recognition system (3), and

the speech recognition system (3) uses acoustic references (8) which are selected and/or adapted in dependence on detected data of the operating state and/or operation environment.

2.   A method as claimed in claim 1,
characterized

in that acoustic basic references (20-1, ..., 20-n, 30-1 ... 30-n) are selected to be used for a speech pause modeling in dependence on the operating state and/or the operation environment of the motorcar.

3.   A method as claimed in claim 2,
characterized

in that an adaptation is provided (22, 32-1, ... 32-n) of the selected acoustic basic references in dependence on the operating state and/or operation environment of the motorcar.

4.   A method as claimed in claim 1,
characterized

in that, for the speech pause modeling, acoustic basic references are combined (33) in dependence on the operating state and/or operation environment of the motorcar.

5.   A method as claimed in one of the claims 1 to 4,
characterized

in that data of operating state and/or operation environment of the motorcar are read from an on-board computer (11) of the motorcar and/or by means of one or more detectors (13) installed in the motorcar.

5   6.   A method as claimed in one of the claims 1 to 5, characterized

in that in dependence on the detected data of the operating state and/or operation environment of the motorcar, those parts of the vocabulary (9) of the speech recognition system (3) are determined (13) that represent speech control signals that have

10   their effect on the control of function units of the motorcar or on devices installed inside the motorcar.

7.   An arrangement for controlling function units of a motorcar, or of devices (1a, 1b) installed in a motorcar by means of speech signals, comprising

15   at least one microphone (2) for converting acoustic signals occurring in the motorcar, which acoustic signals contain noise signal portions that depend on the operating state and/or operation environment of the motorcar and, as the case may be, speech signal portions, and

a speech recognition system (3) coupled to the microphone (2) for recognizing

20   speech signal portions of the acoustic signals, while acoustic references (8) used by the speech recognition system (3) are selected and/or adapted in dependence on detected data of the operating state and/or operation environment.

8.   A method of controlling a device via speech signals, in which

25   acoustic signals which contain noise signal portions that depend on the operating state of the device and/or the operation environment of the device and, as the case may be, speech signal portions, are applied to a speech recognition system and

the speech recognition system uses acoustic references which are selected and/or adapted in dependence on detected data of the operating state and/or operation

30   environment of the device.

9.   An arrangement comprising a device controllable via speech signals, in which

acoustic signals which contain noise signal portions that depend on the operating state and/or the operation environment of the device and, as the case may be, speech signal portions, are applied to a speech recognition system and

the speech recognition system uses acoustic references which are selected
5   and/or adapted in dependence on detected data of the operating state and/or operation environment of the device.